



# FACT SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MANILA  
**PEACE CORPS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Since 1961, **United States Peace Corps** volunteers have worked alongside Filipino counterparts in all regions of the Philippines. Peace Corps Philippines is the agency's second oldest program. In October 1961, 130 Volunteers started assignments as teachers of English, Mathematics, and Science. Since then, more than 8,000 volunteers have served in the



Over the decades, Peace Corps Philippines has supported several sectors. Volunteers worked in health and nutrition, appropriate technology, water sanitation, agricultural extension, marketing cooperatives, fisheries, income generation, agro-forestry, upland community development, vocational education, special education of the deaf, local development planning, small business development, and teacher training.

Peace Corps today supports the development of the Philippines in four areas: Education;

Children, Youth and Family; Coastal Resource Management; and Disaster Management. Peace Corps Volunteers are engaged in English co-teaching, life-skills education, basic literacy activities, coastal resource assessments, marine protected area establishment, and supporting system and process development for effective disaster management. Currently, there are 127 volunteers serving in the Philippines.

## **Education**

At the request of the Philippine Department of Education, Peace Corps Volunteers have recently returned to public school classrooms. They partner with Filipino teachers in English in an effort to improve the English proficiency and develop critical thinking among teachers and students through co-teaching, teacher training, resource development and involvement in community outreach related activities. Volunteer activities include:

- Co-teaching with local counterparts on developing competencies in speaking, reading, writing and listening, as well as higher order thinking of students;
- Co-facilitating teacher training to improve the teachers' English proficiency and teaching methodologies;
- Developing/enhancing learning and teaching resource materials and facilities;
- Engaging in community outreach projects such as literacy classes.

## **Children, Youth, and Family (CYF)**

The children, youth, and family services project is designed to aid the most vulnerable sector of Philippine society. It focuses on assisting disadvantaged Filipino youth and their families through teaching life skills and providing skills training and advice to organizations which provide care, counseling, and education to young Filipinos who are orphaned, neglected, abandoned, handicapped, or in trouble with their community.

Volunteer activities include:

- Co-conducting literacy and life skills sessions with Filipino counterparts for disadvantaged Filipino youth;
- Developing youth leadership and empowerment programs with Filipino youth;
- Conducting staff trainings in play therapy, counseling, behavior modification and other rehabilitative activities;
- Advising host organizations in the development of social service and organizational strategies.

## **Coastal Resource Management (CRM)**

The Peace Corps' environmental project focuses on coastal resource management, promoting the protection and restoration of coastal areas where environmental damage threatens the food security and livelihood of local people. CRM volunteers typically work in partnership with local government units and cooperate closely with non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. Volunteer activities include:

- Conducting bio-physical surveys of marine protected areas;
- Training Bantay Dagat members and fisherfolk on surveys and monitoring techniques;
- Researching, writing and facilitating CRM plans and programs;
- Helping to draft environmental protection ordinances;
- Assisting in the implementation of coastal management programs, such as marine protected area management, fisheries monitoring, coastal use zoning, sustainable tourism, and waste management.

## **"Peace Corps Response"**

"Peace Corps Response" began its operations in the Philippines in early 2007 during the period following a series of super-typhoons culminating with the most damaging, Typhoon Durian (locally known as Reming) in late November 2006. Assignments are focused on broad program areas of disaster preparedness and mitigation, natural disaster relief and reconstruction/rehabilitation, as well as humanitarian assistance.

Peace Corps Response Volunteers engage in project activities such as, but not limited to the following:

- Food security/ sustainable livelihood development;
- Nutrition;
- Community development in relocation and evacuation sites;
- Solid waste management;
- Special education;
- Information systems development;
- Organizational development/ resource mobilization.